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Provincial Government be consulted before a decision was taken. The Government of India have agreed and have asked this Government to say whether accommodation can be found in Madras City for the Laboratory. Steps are accordingly being taken by this Government to find suitable accommodation for the Laboratory in Madras City.''

Teachers working in the State schools in the merged States.

* 8 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether orders have been issued in respect of teachers working in the State schools in the merged States of Pudukkottai, Banganapalle and Sandur;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what those orders are; and

(*c*) whether the general orders applicable to all employees in the service of the States prior to merger are not now applicable to all employees including teachers employed in Government schools?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—'' (*a*) & (*b*) The management of the elementary schools maintained by those States has been taken over by local bodies and the staff have been ordered to be merged in the elementary education staff of the local body concerned according to their qualification, seniority, etc. The teachers in Banganapalle State secondary schools will be absorbed in the service of the District Board, Kurnool, as the management of the schools has already been taken over by the District Board. Orders will be issued in regard to the absorption of the staff in the State Secondary Schools in Pudukkottai and Sandur as soon as a decision is reached on the question of their future management.

'' (*c*) Yes, except that in cases of schools transferred to local bodies, the teachers concerned will be governed by rules of service of local bodies.''

Reduction of issue price of salt in Fish-curing Yards on the West Coast.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the West Coast Fisheries Industrial Association has submitted memoranda detailing the grievances of fishermen;

(*b*) whether the points raised in their memoranda have been examined and orders passed;

(*c*) what the orders of Government are on the various points; and

(*d*) whether the question of reducing the issue price of salt in Fish-curing Yards on the West Coast has been considered?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—'' (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

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" (c) The only request made in the memorial to this Government was that the issue price of salt in the fish-curing yards on the West Coast should be reduced from Rs. 2–8–0 per maund to Rs. 1–4–0 per maund. The request was not accepted. The Association has also sent another memorial to the Government of India in which they have made various allegations and suggestions. The Government of India called for the remarks of this Government on the Memorial and a reply was sent to the Government of India.

" (d) Yes. The question is again under the consideration of the Government."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

V.—DERAILMENT OF CALCUTTA MAIL.

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move—

' *This House deeply sympathises with the victims and the families of the dead in the recent Calcutta Mail disaster and strongly condemns those responsible for the tragedy if it was due to sabotage, and thanks Providence for the miraculous escape of our Chairman. While appreciating the prompt relief arrangements made by the Government, the Railway Authorities, the Police, certain public bodies and persons, this House recommends to the Government to take up with the Government of India adequate measures for relieving the distress caused by this disaster and to take immediate and effective steps to prevent similar occurrences in future—steps for which in the opinion of this House the public should give their closest co-operation and active support.*'

" This House is meeting under the shadow of a great tragedy, one of the greatest tragedies that has overtaken this State. Newspapers have published the details. On the night of Friday, the 3rd March 1950, the engine of the Calcutta Mail Train capsized, all except the last bogey went off the rail, six persons died on the spot, ninety-six were injured and out of them six very seriously. The sympathies of not only the Members of this House but of every man in this country are with the victims and the families of the dead. I do not want to commit this House that the disaster was due to sabotage. On the evidence collected by senior railway officials, ordinary people come to the conclusion that it must have been a result of sabotage. If the sabotage was organized by any political party in opposition to the Government, we must very strongly condemn the subversive activities of that party. The Opposition has very severely criticised the Government whenever they interfered with the personal freedom of the individual. As I have often said, the Opposition is behind the Government in the enforcement of law and order which is the primary responsibility of any Government. Is the sabotage aimed at any politician, Minister or other important person in charge of the Government